



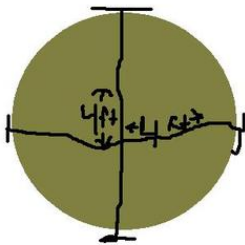
Build a Hovercraft

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SUMMARY

With only one mildly expensive part, you can glide a couple of inches off the ground. I'm only ten, and I can do it!

Step 1 — Building the body




- First, take a large sheet of 1/2-inch plywood and cut out a 4-by-4 circle.
- (I'm really sorry that all of my pictures had to be done in Paint.)

Step 2 — Cutting your air port

The black dot is the center. The grey loop is the tracing.



- Time to add your air port, where air will enter from your air source. If you don't have a leafblower, either stop here or buy one. Your blower should preferably be cordless. I got stuck with a corded one.
- Warning: Leafblowers are loud and produce high-pitched sounds that can damage hearing, especially with long-term exposure. Only you can prevent hearing loss. Wear ear protection! 
- If your leafblower has an elongated tube, remove it. This thing needs to be compact. Use a pencil and trace the shape of the end of your leafblower on the wood. This should be drawn toward the side (see illustration).
- Cut out your air port.

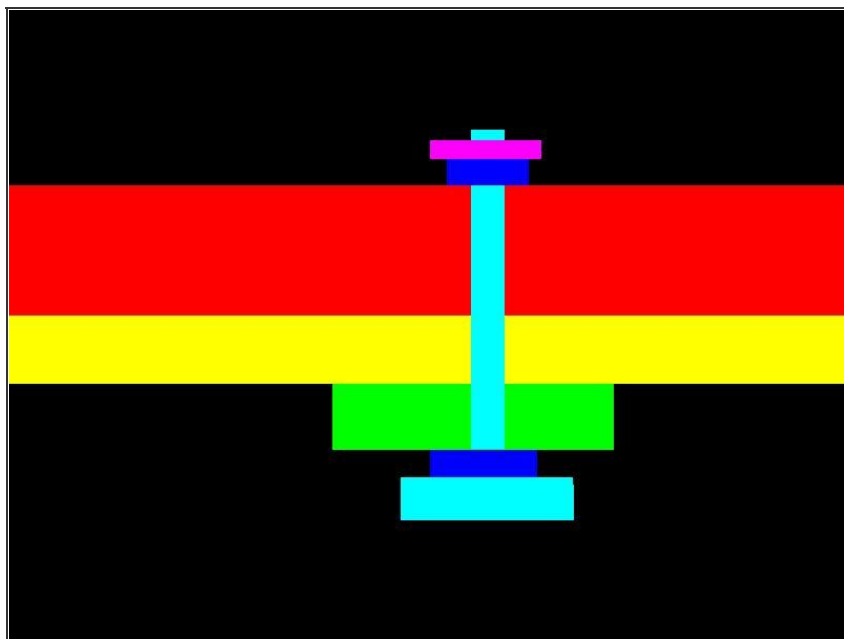
Step 3 — Add the skirt

Plastic should hang down a bit.



- You'll need some thick plastic. I used pond liner material. Old shower curtains are good too. Cut out a large piece, one foot in diameter larger than your wood. Put your wood on top of it. Use a staple gun to staple the plastic to the wood. Put in a staple about every 2 inches. The plastic should hang a bit underneath.

Step 4



- Cut out a 6-inch disc from 1/8-inch-thick wood. Drill a pilot hole through the center of your disc, plastic, and main hovercraft disk. The hole goes in the exact center of the hovercraft. Put a fender washer (dark blue here) on a 2-inch 1/4-20 bolt (light blue), and drive the bolt up through your 6-inch disc (green), plastic (yellow), and hovercraft body (red). Apply another washer, and then a 1/4-20 nut (pink).

Step 5 — All Done!



- Well, there you go. You have built a hovercraft! But don't use it yet. The last step is to cut 6 holes evenly spaced in a circle around the 6-inch disc. The holes should be about two inches wide.
- If you want, you can screw a lawn chair to the craft. Just make sure the weight is evenly balanced.
- This is me on my hovercraft. Have fun!

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